

Final Exam

The first part of the exam will take 50 min. and will involve short answers, identification of quotes, explication of terms and concepts covering all the readings for the course. You should expect to review all the readings and have a ready knowledge of the major ideas in each theorist and/or selection. You should also review your notes from lectures and screenings.

The second part of the exam is a written essay in response to one of the following questions, using one or more music videos as your example(s). In other words, you can assume that I know the video you are talking about and you can thus refer to it to make points without detailing the text itself. [Example: you could refer to Madonna's parody of Marilyn Monroe in Material Girl to talk about recycling images or to talk about gender and nonverbal communication. You would not have to then explain in detail how she parodies or all the ways in which gender is distinguished.] You can draw examples from the tape I supply which can be checked out for use in the building during office hours. Overnight use must accommodate sharing with others in the class and the tape must be back by 9 am no exceptions and I will deduct at least one half of a letter grade if you screw up. You may use your own examples, but then must turn in a demo tape for me with your exam. Use the tape counter to let me know where the video is located.

Choose one. You may bring one page of notes or drawings.

1. Discuss the realist objections to formalism using at least two theorists from each group.
2. Most music videos strongly concentrate on the performer and spectacle rather than character and plot which have been the traditional concerns of film theory in approaching audio/visual presentation. Discuss this with reference to four major thinkers in film theory.
3. Apply some of the same concerns and types of analysis found in the Young Mr. Lincoln discussion to a music video.
4. Discuss the ideas of the Russian Formalists and Eisenstein on editing and then show how that can be applied to understanding music video.
5. Present your own position on the question of evaluation; that is, how do you understand aesthetic value, and how do you discriminate among different works? Use several music videos to explain your ideas.